



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **JOPLIN MAN SENTENCED IN METH, MARIJUANA CONSPIRACY**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that a Joplin man has been sentenced for his role in a series of conspiracy, drug and firearms charges related to methamphetamine and marijuana trafficking in Jasper County and elsewhere.

**Jack C. Collinsworth**, 50, of Joplin, was sentenced on November 22, 2002, by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith to 19 years and seven months in prison without parole.

On March 18, 2002, **Collinsworth** pleaded guilty to his role in the conspiracy to manufacture and distribute methamphetamine and to distribute marijuana from as early as January 26, 2000, to February 21, 2001, in Jasper County and elsewhere.

**Collinsworth**, Graves said, is among 10 Joplin residents charged in a 41-count indictment that was returned on June 27, 2001, by a federal grand jury in Springfield. Eight co-defendants have pleaded guilty to their role in the conspiracy. One defendant is a fugitive, Graves explained, and one defendant has been dismissed from the indictment.

### ADDITIONAL DEFENDANTS (All of the defendants are Joplin residents.)

**Michael L. Streight**, 48, was sentenced on November 21, 2002, to three years and nine months in prison without parole for conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine.

**Jeffrey H. Stephens**, 39, was sentenced on October 31, 2002, to 15 years in prison without parole and a fine of \$1,000.

**Albert A. Laduca**, 47, was sentenced on June 13, 2002, to eight years and 10 months in prison without parole.

**James F. Ollis**, 42, was sentenced on June 13, 2002, to three years and 10 months in prison without parole.

**Diana D. Williams**, 35, was sentenced on June 13, 2002, to one year and three months in prison without parole.

**David N. Scroggins**, 54, was sentenced on June 13, 2002, to seven months in prison without parole.

**Michael A. Purdy**, 41, was sentenced on June 12, 2002, to five years in prison without parole for conspiracy and five years in prison without parole for possession of a firearm in furtherance of the offense of possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine, with the sentences to run concurrently.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Randall D. Eggert (who replaces former Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Brookman on the case). It was investigated by the Jasper County Drug Task Force, Joplin Police Department, Newton County Sheriff's Department, Galena (Kan.) Police Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Missouri Southern State College Crime Laboratory, Southwest Missouri Drug Task Force, Missouri State Highway Patrol, Baxter Springs (Kan.) Police Department, Duquesne Police Department, Internal Revenue Service Criminal Investigation, U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration, Jasper County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, Cherokee County (Kan.) Sheriff's Department and the Kansas Bureau of Investigation.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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